

Shark Pride



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PATRICK AIR FORCE BASE & CAPE CANAVERAL AIR FORCE STATION, FLORIDA'S SPACE COAST

JUNE 13, 2014

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2014 Hurricane Names

Arthur
Bertha
Cristobal
Dolly
Edouard
Fay
Gonzalo

Hanna
Isaias
Josephine
Kyle
Laura
Marco
Nana

Omar
Paulette
Rene
Sally
Teddy
Vicky
Wilfred

Hurricane Guide 2014



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Spaghetti plots help track hurricanes

By William P. Roeder
45th Weather Squadron

A 'spaghetti plot' is a powerful tool for predicting the track of hurricanes. A spaghetti plot shows many lines on a map, each line being a hurricane track forecast from different hurricane prediction computer models. The overlapping long strands look a bit like a plate of spaghetti.

Sometimes the various track predictions will cluster together very tightly. This indicates that the computer models agree closely on where the hurricane should track and gives meteorologists increased confidence in the final prediction.

Sometimes the track predictions will spread far apart, indicating that the computer models disagree on the hurricane path, giving meteorologists less confidence in the forecast. Usually, most of the predicted paths will generally agree, except for a few paths that diverge from the consensus. The consensus of several models usually performs better than even the best single forecast model.

In August 2011, Hurricane Irene was an excellent example of the benefits of spaghetti plots.

The major hurricane (Category 3) came within 180 miles of the Space Coast, yet no evacuations or even hurricane watches or warnings were issued for Brevard County. This was in large part because the spaghetti plot provided a high level of confidence for the likely track of the hurricane passing safely offshore Brevard County.

Spaghetti plots have become popular very quickly. It is a simple concept that makes it easy to interpret a lot of complex information quickly and easily on one map. It has drawbacks though. People often want to know which line is the best forecast. But looking for the best single forecast defeats the purpose of the spaghetti plot--consensus works best. The spread of the plots also indicates forecast confidence.

Why are there different forecasts? The computer models have different features and assumptions that give them different strengths and weaknesses under different weather conditions. It is okay for the models to have different forecasts. An experienced expert meteorologist is needed to know which models perform best under what situations and which have been performing better recently. That is one of the main jobs of the forecasters at the National Hurricane Center. Usually a consensus of a few of the best



A spaghetti plot of Hurricane Irene at 00 GMT Aug. 24, 2011, shows many lines on a map, each line being a hurricane track forecast from different hurricane prediction computer models. The forecast tracks from all the models closely agree, indicating high confidence in the forecast. (Graphic image courtesy/William Roeder)

models gives the best prediction. The spread in the forecast tracks also allows "enveloping" to provide margins of safety. For example, if a cluster of track forecasts are approaching Florida, the National Hurricane Center might initially put the official track forecast toward the landward side of the consensus cluster to be cautious, until confidence increases enough to lower the risk to the coastline safely.

Beginning in the 2010 hurricane season, the National Hurricane Center added the spread in the track forecasts to their Wind Speed Probability Product—an objective application of spaghetti plots. This provided up to a 15 percent improvement in skill of the product under some conditions. This technique was developed in part by a collaborative project between the Naval Postgraduate School and the 45th Weather Squadron.

A spaghetti plot provides only the track of center of the tropical cyclone. The size and intensity of the wind field is not included, nor are other hazards like storm surge, local flooding, and tornadoes that can occur far from the storm center. Other tools are used for those hazards.

Weather safety training, including hurricane preparedness, is available from 45th Weather Squadron, or you can contact william.roeder@us.af.mil, at 321-853-8410. ■

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PLAN AHEAD

EVACUATION ROUTES & SHELTERS

Know how to leave the area and where to find a hurricane shelter if you need to stay

Here are the shelters and evacuation routes by region in Brevard County. People who live in high-risk areas, such as the barrier islands or manufactured-home communities, should stay with relatives, friends or in a motel or hotel on the mainland. Shelters should be used as a last resort.

Evacuation routes

Primary evacuation shelters

A. Mims Elementary
2582 U.S. 1, Mims

B. Apollo Elementary
3085 Knox McRae Drive, Titusville

C. Imperial Estate Elementary
900 Imperial Estate Lane., Titusville

D. Walter Butler Community Center
4201 U.S. 1, Cocoa

E. Eastern Florida State College
Cocoa Campus Bldg. 3,
1519 Clearlake Road, Cocoa

F. Manatee Elementary
3425 Viera Blvd., Viera

G. Sherwood Elementary
2541 Post Road, Melbourne

H. Eau Gallie High
1400 Commodore Blvd., Melbourne

I. Melbourne High
74 Bulldog Blvd., Melbourne

J. Meadowlane Intermediate Elementary
2700 Wingate Blvd., West Melbourne

K. Heritage High
2351 Malabar Road, Palm Bay

L. Bayside High
1901 DeGroodt Road S.W., Palm Bay

M. Barefoot Bay Community Center Building A, Barefoot Bay.
625 Barefoot Bay Blvd.
Note: This is a meeting point for transportation to shelters in Palm Bay and Micco.

N. South Mainland Community Center
3700 Allen Ave., Micco

Pet-friendly shelters

Pet-friendly shelter registration

a Port St. John Community Center
6650 Corto Road,
Port St. John

b Viera Regional Park
2300 Judge Fran Jamieson Way,
Viera

c Palm Bay Regional Park
1951 Malabar Road NW,
Palm Bay



Are you prepared for hurricane season?

Courtesy of the 45th Space Wing Legal Office

Another hurricane season has begun, and it is important to have a plan in place should disaster strike. Part of this plan should be that you are “legally prepared” for what may come. While you may remember to keep the family cat and photos with you, many forget to keep proof that they own their possessions and insurance documents with them as well.

By taking stock of your personal effects and evaluating your insurance coverage before disaster strikes, you can save many headaches and much frustration.

First, keep important papers and documents in one safe, central, easy-to-locate place in case of an evacuation. Also, decide what you plan to do with personal valuables and sentimental items now.

A checklist of what you want to take with you may be extremely helpful during the stress of an evacuation. Also, taking inventory of what you own can be beneficial. Make a videotape or take pictures of your belongings, and mail these to someone in a safer location. A quick 30-minute photo shoot can be invaluable if your possessions are destroyed and you

must attempt to list everything you own.

Second, find out what kind of insurance you have, and ensure that flood insurance is a part of that protection.

Depending on whether you are living on-base, in privatized housing, or off-base, there are different insurance options available and different levels of protection.

Residents of privatized housing at Patrick are automatically provided with a renter’s insurance policy for up to \$20,000 with a \$250 deductible. The policy may or may not be enough to cover your property, so be sure to take the above-mentioned inventory – it will also help to determine if additional renter’s insurance is necessary. Check your lease for details on the renter’s insurance provisions currently in place.

Finally, because their coverage is a traditional renter’s insurance policy, privatized housing residents will not be reimbursed for losses due to power surges or food spoilage. Look for private insurance options if interested in obtaining coverage for these items.



Depending on whether you are living on-base, in privatized housing, or off-base, there are different insurance options available and different levels of protection. The policy may or may not be enough to cover your property, so be sure to take the above-mentioned inventory - it will also help to determine if additional renter’s insurance is necessary. Check your lease for details on the renter’s insurance provisions currently in place.

For those who do not live in privatized housing, be aware that you are not automatically protected and should obtain renter’s insurance or homeowner’s insurance of an amount adequate to cover the full-replacement value of your belongings.

There is no way to completely avoid

a hurricane if one occurs, but through preparation you can lessen the stress and more adequately protect yourself from devastating losses. If you would like more information on how you can be legally-prepared for a hurricane, please contact the base legal office at 321-494-7357. ■

Home preparation checklist

- Check your insurance coverage. Flood insurance is often wise, even in low-risk areas.
- Reinforce double-entry doors with heavy-duty foot and head bolts.
- Make sure screened porches and carports are properly attached to the house.
- Brace gabled roofs with anchored beams perpendicular to the truss.
- Be sure soffits and vents are properly and securely installed.
- Make plans for your family. Establish a point of contact.
- Check for any loose electrical wiring or gas connections, inside and outside.
- Secure loose structures (patios, porches, fences, etc.) outside your house.

► **Swimming pools:** Make sure your deck properly drains rainwater. Ensure the deck drains are clear of grass or debris. Ensure overflow drain line is clear.

► Impact glass:

Cost: Estimates vary
Description: Similar to auto safety glass, these windows are designed from the start to prevent breaks. Upside: Once they're installed, no further work is needed.



BEFORE THE

STORMS

Things you can do to prepare for hurricane season

- **Inside:** Make sure your water heater is strapped to wall studs or another solid base.
- Make sure pictures, mirrors and other items are hanging away from beds or couches. Take them down during the storm.

- **Tile roof:** Replace loose tiles, which may become airborne in heavy winds.

- **Clean gutters:** Normal Florida rains will tax your gutters if they don't allow a free flow of water. Also, make sure downspouts direct water away from the foundation.

Roof

- **Examine now:** Look for curled, torn or loose shingles. If possible, replace with new shingles. Drive new nails through the original holes. After replacing the nails, coat the nail heads with

roofing cement. Firmly press down the shingle overlaying it.

- **Fix little leaks:** Be mindful of areas around roof vents. Seal with a commercially available sealant.

- **Palm pruning:** Avoid pruning green fronds. Limit pruning to brown fronds. Remove coconuts, which can become missiles.

Garages

- Codes in effect after early 2002 call for tougher doors and track assemblies.

- Older doors can be stiffened with crossbars (about \$400), but care should be taken because such modifications will affect the door's weight and balance.

- The door's fasteners to the garage walls can be made stronger with additional or upgraded hardware. A door that moves in the wind can twist its track and break loose.

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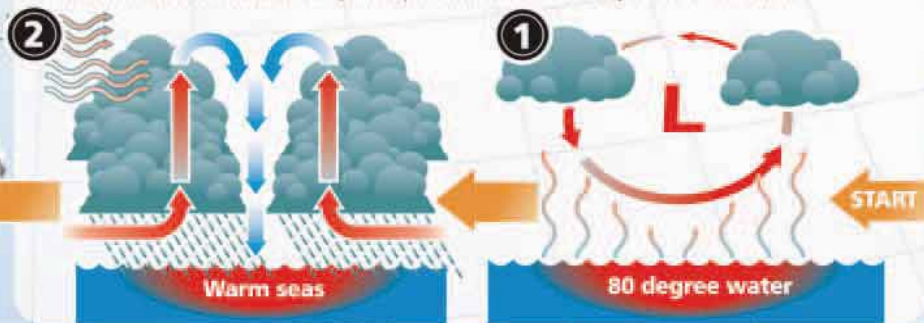
Tropical cyclones: Process of formation

1. At the storm's conception ...

- Moisture rising off the warm sea begins to form rain clouds.
- Counterclockwise atmospheric winds spin over western Africa, strengthening tropical waves into low-pressure systems in the eastern Atlantic.
- Winds near the ocean bring humid air into the storm.

2. ... as the storm builds

- The surrounding air fills in the low-pressure area, creating wind over the water.
- Humid air rises, causing moisture to condense, keeping the thunderstorms building.
- As the storm strengthens, some rising air begins sinking, forming a cloud-free eye. Weak vertical wind shear helps keep storms intact as they move westward.



2014

Scientists are forecasting a below-average 2014 hurricane season. They predict a 49 percent chance of landfall for the entire eastern U.S. coastline.

Atlantic Ocean

H
Bermuda high

29% chance of landfall

Brevard:
1% probability hurricane making landfall

28% chance of landfall

Gulf of Mexico

③

Steering the storm

External steering weather systems and global winds move storms along. A Bermuda High, a mound of high pressure, is one of the key steering currents for storms

Trade winds

Sources: NOAA, The Tropical Meteorology Project, National Climatic Data Center, USA TODAY and FLORIDA TODAY research

FLORIDA TODAY

Storm structure

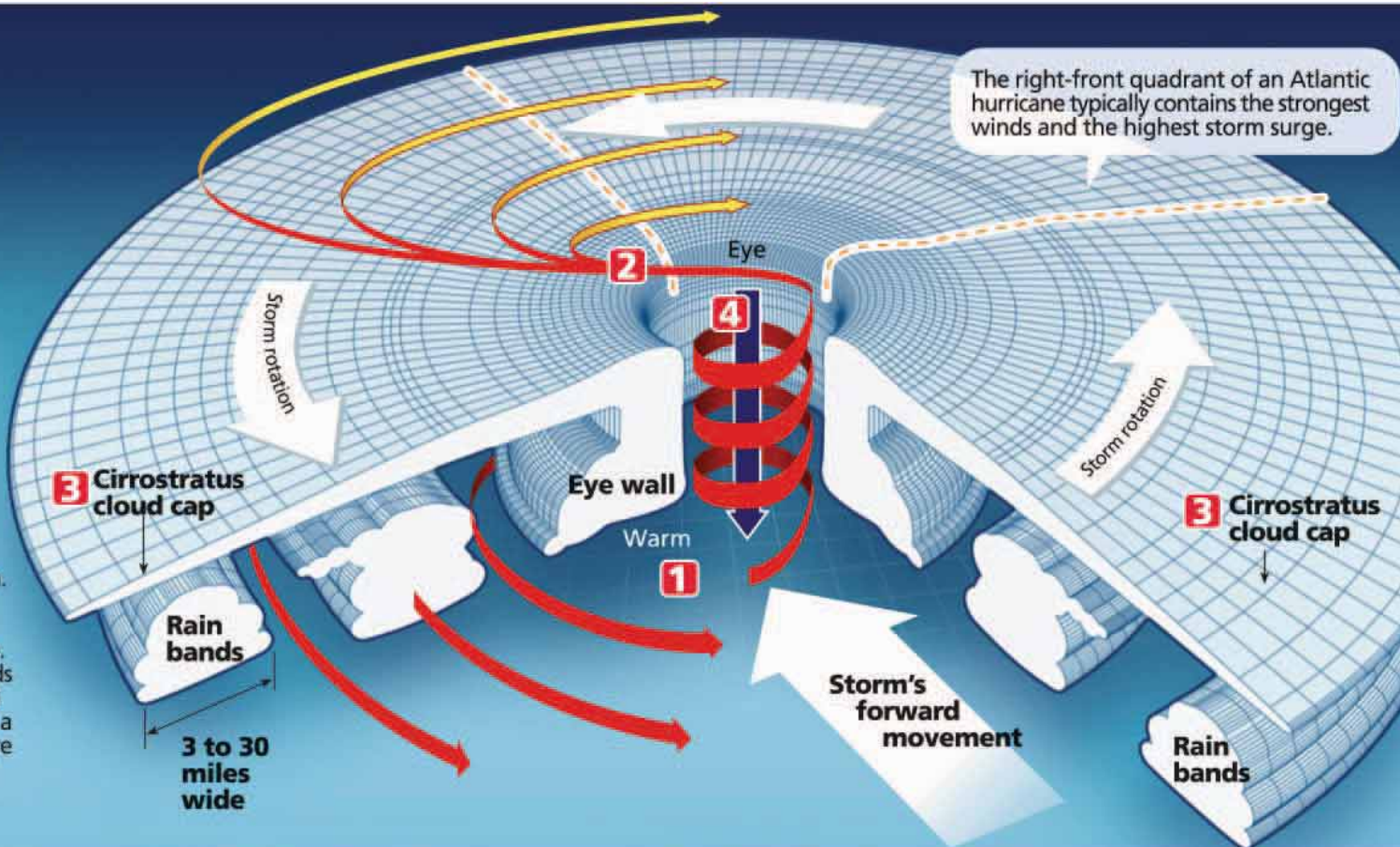
Hurricanes are giant weather systems that convert the heat energy of warm, tropical ocean water into very dangerous storms.

1. A hurricane is made of bands of thunderstorms that spiral around a center. Warm, humid air spirals inward, speeding up as it approaches the center.

2. Winds reaching the top of the storm flow out.

3. Cirrostratus clouds cap the storm.

4. Some of the spreading wind is forced into the center of the storm. As winds descend, the pressure builds up, creating the clear region called the eye. Air is sinking 20 to 40 feet a minute at the storm's eye. Winds are mostly calm in the eye.



The right-front quadrant of an Atlantic hurricane typically contains the strongest winds and the highest storm surge.

Sources: NOAA, The Tropical Meteorology Project, National Climatic Data Center, USA TODAY and FLORIDA TODAY research

FLORIDA TODAY

EL NIÑO TO THE RESCUE?

Pacific phenomenon improves our odds, but all it takes is one

By Jim Waymer
FLORIDA TODAY

El Niño is the major twist in this year's hurricane season. The pattern of warmer-than-usual water in the Pacific Ocean usually results in stronger shearing winds across the tropical Atlantic Ocean, which clips the tops off tropical systems before they can intensify into hurricanes.

But forecasters warn against complacency and remind that Hurricane Andrew devastated South Florida during the tail end of an El Niño. It was the first named storm of the season and struck in August.

Because of the high prospects for an El Niño, Colorado State University's forecasting team predicts a well-below-average hurricane season, which runs June 1 to Nov. 30.

Overall, they call for the following:

- » Nine named storms. The long-term average is 12.
- » Three of those will strengthen to hurricanes. The long-term average is six or seven hurricanes.
- » One of those three hurricanes will

reach Category 3 or higher, with sustained winds of 111 mph or greater. The long-term average is two major hurricanes.

- » A 20 percent chance of a Category 3 or stronger hurricane making landfall on America's East Coast, including Florida. The average chance over the past half-century is 31 percent in any given year.

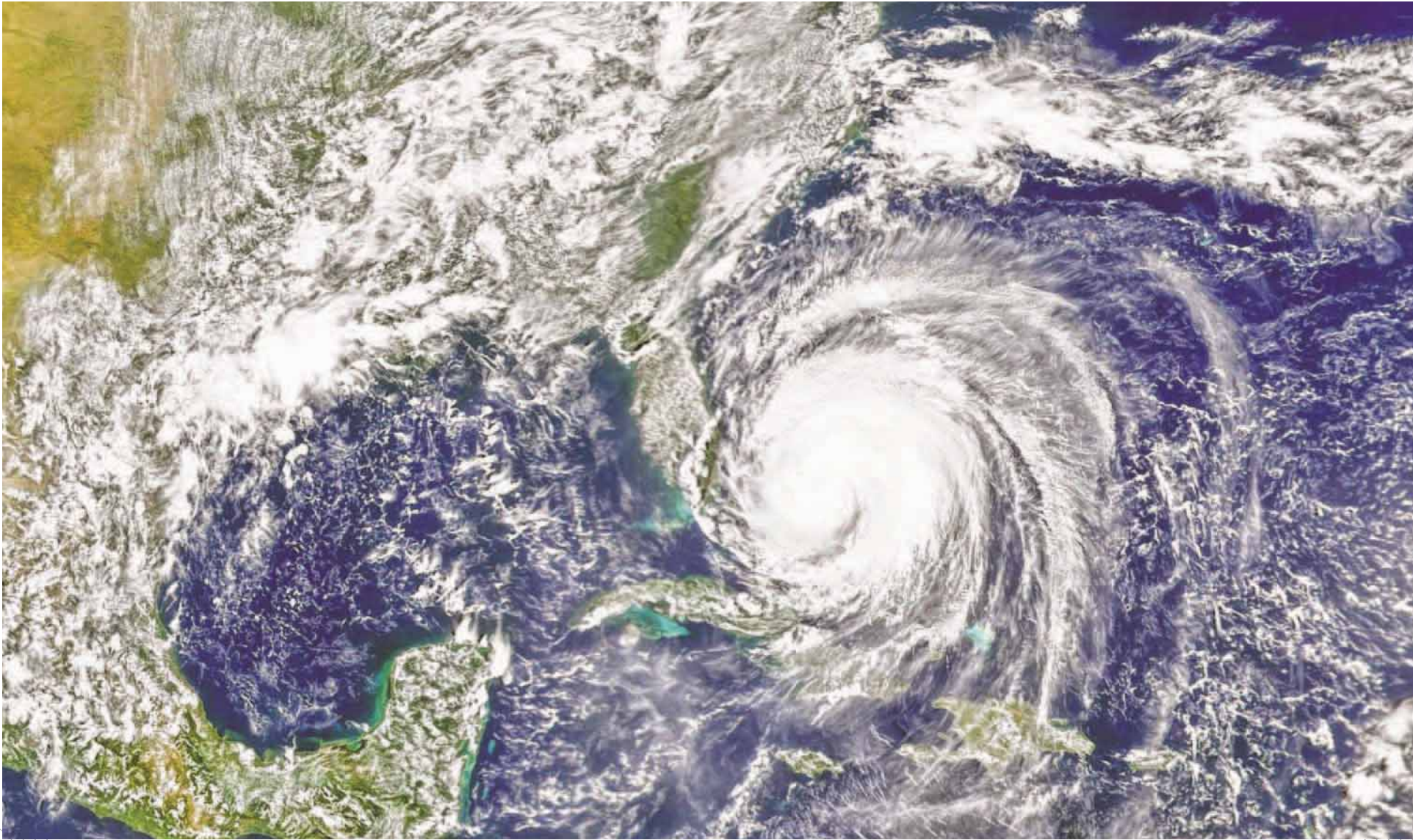
NOAA had been predicting since March that the probability of an El Niño within six months was greater than 50 percent.

El Niño's hurricane-dampening isn't a certainty.

"It's not an absolute," David Zierden, state climatologist at Florida State University's Florida Climate Center, said of El Niño's hurricane-dampening effects. "The way this one's evolving, it should be in place in time to impact our hurricane season ... It's probably going to be strong to moderate in strength."

El Niño, which typically forms in summer or fall, is a cycle every several years of warmer-than-usual water near the equator in the Pacific Ocean. That creates strong west to east upper-level winds that tend to shear the tops off tropical systems before they can strengthen to hurricanes.

El Niño nudges the jet stream farther south, over Central Florida. No such shearing effect exists during La Niña — the opposite pattern of cooler-than-usual Pacific waters near the equator — or during neutral phases



Above: Hurricane Andrew devastated South Florida in 1992. It struck as the first storm of the season, at the tail end of an El Nino year. NOAA

Left: The first bands of Hurricane Frances approach the coast of Florida on Sept. 3, 2004. AP

EXTENDED FORECAST

- » **9 named storms** (12)*
- » **3 hurricanes** (6.5)*
- » **12 hurricane days** (21.3)*
- » **1 major hurricane** (2)*

**Numbers in parentheses represent medians based on 1981-2010 data.*

LANDFALL FORECAST

- » Entire U.S. Coastline:
35 percent
Average for last century: 52 percent
- » Gulf Coast from Florida Pan-handle west to Brownsville:
19 percent
Average for last century: 30 percent
- » East Coast and Florida Peninsula:
20 percent
Average for last century: 31 percent
- » Caribbean: **28 percent**
Average for last century: 42 percent

Source: Tropical Meteorology Project

OTHER HURRICANE PREDICTIONS

- » **Tropical Storm Risk:** www.tropicalstormrisk.com
- » **Weather Channel:** www.weather.com/news/weather-hurricane-season-outlook-atlantic-2014-el-nini-20140324
- » **Landfalling probability webpage:** www.e-transit.org/hurricane.

between the two cycles.

The CSU team's annual predictions are intended as a best estimate, not an exact measure. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's hurricane season prediction comes in the form of a range, not specific numbers.

Other forecasters have echoed CSU's prediction of a below-average hurricane season.

In late March, the Weather Channel called for 11 named storms, including five hurricanes and two major, Category 3-or-higher hurricanes.

On May 12, the Hurricane Genesis & Outlook (HUGO) Project at Coastal Carolina University announced it expects a "below- to near-normal" hurricane season. They say the most likely scenario is that no hurricanes make landfall on the U.S. East Coast or on the Gulf Coast. The second most likely scenario, they said, is that one hurricane makes landfall on the East Coast, and that one hurricane makes

landfall on the Gulf Coast.

The team also expects nine to 11 (with 10 most likely) tropical storms, three to six (with five most likely) hurricanes and one to two (with one most likely) major hurricanes this season.

But even the CSU team doesn't put much stock in early seasonal predictions.

So why issue any forecasts so far in advance?

"People are curious to know how active the upcoming season is likely to be," the CSU team writes in its seasonal forecast reports.

"Everyone should realize that it is impossible to precisely predict this season's hurricane activity in early April," the team warns. "There is, however, much curiosity as to how global ocean and atmosphere features are presently arranged as regards to the probability of an active or inactive hurricane season for the coming year."

Last year in early April, the CSU team's prediction overshot when it called for 18 named storms, nine hurricanes and four major hurricanes. There wound up being only 14 named storms and two hurricanes — none of which were major.

Predictions aside, preparations should remain the same, forecasters warn.

Some final suggestions ... about finances during an evacuation

Courtesy of 45th Comptroller Squadron

Only the Base Commander can issue an evacuation order. The costs associated with leaving prior to an evacuation order, however, may fall upon the individual service member or employee. The Base Commander will determine who is required to evacuate, the evacuation location and who is covered by the order.

Military are automatically covered. NAF and AAFES employees may be covered. Spouses of deployed military members are covered.

Government Travel Card

- » Use of the Government Travel Card (GTC) is not authorized until an order is issued. Once the order is issued, you may use the card to get cash and fuel your vehicles.
- » Spouses of deployed members needing financial support to facilitate their evacuation should contact the 45th Comptroller Squadron at 494-4882 to make the necessary arrangements.
- » Mileage is reimbursed at \$.56 per mile per authorized vehicle.
- » The maximum reimbursable lodging is computed by multiplying the maximum locality rate for the area



times a percentage based on the number dependents traveling.

- » Military member (or spouse if member is absent) - 100 percent.
- » Spouse and children over 12 - 100 percent each.
- » Children under 12 - 50 percent each.
- » Per diem is computed on the locality rate using the same percentages.
- » Other expenses such as tolls may be claimed on your travel voucher. Official phone calls and official

vicinity travel need to be specifically authorized.

» Keep all receipts!

Items not covered by per diem

- » Vehicle preparations such as an oil change or installing a tow hitch or luggage rack on your vehicle.
- » Extra costs associated with pets such as extra room charges or kenneling costs. You are required to provide itemized lodging receipts and pet costs will be deducted.
- » Hurricane survival items such as flashlights, batteries, radios, coolers and bottled water.
- » Phone charges that would have been otherwise incurred. You will not be reimbursed for exceeding the minutes on your cellular plan.
- » Preparations for hurricane-proofing your home.
- » Storing a vehicle in a hurricane-proof shelter.
- » Rental vehicles will be limited to POV reimbursements.
- » The toll roads are usually free during evacuations. You may only claim tolls you actually incurred.

What you should do upon returning

- » Units will be compiling information about your dependents for inclusion on the travel order. Be

proactive about getting this information to your unit. Dependents must be in DEERS to receive reimbursement. For reimbursement purposes, the dependency rules for civilians will mirror those of the military.

- » The Comptroller Squadron will organize mass briefings to collect travel vouchers. An evacuation generates three times the number of vouchers that we process in a normal month.

Also, remember, hurricane damage will likely affect our operational ability. Your cooperation and attention to detail will greatly affect our ability to process your voucher in a timely manner.

- » Keep track of GTC spending so you can split disburse the correct amount.
- » Generally, there are no entitlements once you return to your Permanent Duty Station. However, if the condition of your quarters affects your ability to perform your duties, commanders have options for providing alternate lodging.
- » Any reimbursable item other than travel should be directed to the base claims office. ■



Test Your Knowledge About Hurricanes

1. What is a hurricane?

- A. a wind storm with a funnel
- B. a severe thunderstorm with wind
- C. a storm with winds of 75 mph or more

2. What areas of the world have the most hurricanes?

- A. areas near the poles
- B. areas near the Pacific Ocean
- C. areas near the equator

3. When is the main hurricane season in the North Atlantic?

- A. June to November
- B. May to September
- C. July to December

4. What is the name of the scale used to rank hurricanes

and measure their damage potential?

- A. Fahrenheit Scale
- B. Saffri-Simpson
- C. Beaufort Scale

5. What are hurricanes called in the western Pacific Ocean?

- A. Cyclones
- B. western hurricanes
- C. typhoons

6. What causes the most deaths from a hurricane?

- A. strong winds
- B. storm surge
- C. falling trees and buildings

7. What is a major cause of hurricane formation?

- A. changes in barometric pres-

- sure from low to high
- B. bad thunderstorms
- C. warm ocean water

8. What does a hurricane hunter do?

- A. flies a plane and watches for a hurricane to form
- B. flies a plane into a hurricane to find out more about it
- C. follows a hurricane so everyone knows where it is

9. What is a storm surge?

- A. spiraling air which is rising and creating rainbands
- B. the combination of strong winds and heavy rain
- C. severe flooding caused by higher than normal tides

10. Where are the worst winds in a hurricane found?

- A. the eyewall around the eye of the hurricane
- B. inside the eye of the hurricane
- C. around the outside edges of the hurricane

ANSWERS:
1. C
2. C
3. A
4. B
5. C
6. B
7. C
8. B
9. C
10. A

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What To Take To A Shelter

- Flashlight
- Radio and/or portable TV
- Extra batteries
- Medicines
- Snacks for first 24 hours
- Special diet foods
- Baby food and diapers, if taking infants
- Pillows, blankets, cots, sleeping blankets, earplugs
- Identification
- Copies of valuable papers
- Eyeglasses, hearing aids, dentures
- Toiletries, first-aid kit
- Playing cards, games, books
- Cash

What Not To Take To A Shelter

- Guns
- Alcohol
- Pets (except assistance dogs)
- Illegal drugs

Watch for little ones' anxiety, explain a lot

Help children feel safe during a hurricane by taking extra steps to prepare, entertain and comfort them.

Remember: How children react depends on how you, as the adult, react. Stay calm and in control.

Suggestions from the National Child Traumatic Stress Network:

» In an age-appropriate way, talk to your children about what to expect. It's OK for them to have questions and to express concerns.

» Because of the prolonged impact of a hurricane, it's a conversation you may have again, as needed.

» To prepare, make extra trips to the library, and gather activities or games in a special storm bag for when the electricity goes out.

» Before the storm hits, help children make a "safe nest" out of blankets and pillows, and assign them their own flashlight, which can help them feel more secure.

» After a storm passes, watch for signs of increased anxiety in your children, from changes in eating habits to disturbances in sleep, and talk to their doctor about areas of concern.

— Mackenzie Ryan, *FLORIDA TODAY*

DON'T FORGET YOUR PETS!



GETTY IMAGES/STOCKPHOTO

Four-legged friends need a little extra thought

Brevard County operates pet-friendly shelters at these locations during mandatory evacuations:

- » **Port St. John Community Center** – 6650 Corto Road
- » **Viera Regional Park** – 2300 Judge Fran Jamieson Way
- » **Palm Bay Regional Park** – 1951 N.W. Malabar Road

HERE IS A CHECKLIST FOR PET OWNERS BEFORE AND AFTER A STORM

- » When evacuating your pet, bring a current rabies vaccination certificate, leash and collar, county animal license, crate or cage, enough pet food for

five days, medications, cleaning supplies and comfort items for your pet. If relying on canned food, bring a can opener.

- » Also bring a current photo of your animal to identify it, in case it happens to get loose.
- » Pets should not be left behind unattended during evacuations.
- » After returning home, walk pets on a leash until they become reacquainted with their surroundings. Familiar scents could be gone, so pets may become confused.
- » Pack comfort items, such as a favorite toy and blanket.

— Mackenzie Ryan and Rick Neale, *FLORIDA TODAY*



Board games are handy during power failures. CRAIG BAILEY/FLORIDA TODAY

Stay alert to avoid post-storm problems

Being prepared for what comes after a potentially deadly storm can be just as critical as staying out of harm's way as the storm approaches and passes.

From reuniting with family after being separated during a storm to avoiding flooding roads, these tips from FEMA are potential life-savers.

- » Continue listening to a NOAA Weather Radio or the local news for the latest updates.

- » Stay alert for extended rainfall and subsequent flooding even after the hurricane or tropical storm has ended.

- » If you have become separated from your family, use your family communications plan or contact the American Red Cross at 800-RED-CROSS/800-733-2767 or visit the American Red Cross Safe and Well site: www.safeandwell.org

- » FEMA has established the National Emergency Family Registry and Locator System (NEFRLS), which has been developed to help reunite families who are separated during a disaster. The NEFRLS system will enable displaced individuals the ability to enter personal information into a website database so that they can be located by others during a disaster.

- » The American Red Cross also maintains a database to help you find family. Contact the local American Red Cross chapter where you are staying for information. Do not contact the chapter in the disaster area.

- » If you evacuated, return home only when officials say it is safe.

- » If you cannot return home and have immediate housing needs. Text SHELTER + your ZIP code to 43362 (4FEMA) to find the nearest shelter in your area (example: shelter 12345).

- » For those who have longer-term housing needs, FEMA offers several types of assistance, including services and grants to help people repair their homes and find replacement housing. Apply for assistance or search for information about housing rental resources

- » Drive only if necessary and avoid flooded roads and washed-out bridges. Stay off the streets. If you must go out watch for fallen objects; downed electrical wires; and weakened walls, bridges, roads, and sidewalks.

- » Keep away from loose or dangling power lines and report them immediately to the power company.

- » Walk carefully around the outside your home



Emergency preparation equipment GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

and check for loose power lines, gas leaks and structural damage before entering.

- » Stay out of any building if you smell gas, floodwaters remain around the building or your home was damaged by fire and the authorities have not declared it safe.

- » Inspect your home for damage. Take pictures of damage, both of the building and its contents, for insurance purposes. If you have any doubts about safety, have your residence inspected by a qualified building inspector or structural engineer before entering.

- » Use battery-powered flashlights in the dark. Do not use candles. Note: The flashlight should be turned on outside before entering — the battery may produce a spark that could ignite leaking gas, if present.

- » Watch your pets closely and keep them under your direct control. Watch out for wild animals, especially poisonous snakes. Use a stick to poke through debris.

- » Avoid drinking or preparing food with tap water until you are sure it's not contaminated.

- » Check refrigerated food for spoilage. If in doubt, throw it out.

- » Wear protective clothing and be cautious when cleaning up to avoid injury.

- » Use the telephone only for emergency calls.

- » Never use a generator inside homes, garages, crawlspaces, sheds, or similar areas, even when using fans or opening doors and windows for ventilation. Deadly levels of carbon monoxide can quickly build up in these areas and can linger for hours, even after the generator has shut off.

GET
SUPPLIES
NOW

Round up tarps now, not after they are needed

Tarpaulins, more commonly known as tarps, can be handy to help protect your home if it is damaged in a storm. Emergency management officials offer these suggestions on how to use tarps:

- » **Have some on hand.** Don't wait until you have damage to buy one or try to get one from authorities. Basic tarp prices start at about \$5.

- » **Wait until the storm is over** and the winds die down before addressing storm damage that might require a tarp.

- » **Use wood stripping to secure the tarps** to cover roof damage. Run the wood strips along the roof and nail the tarp to the strips.

- » **Don't try to put up a tarp if you are not physically capable.** Ask neighbors to assist.

- » **Tarps have alternative uses.** Place fallen branches or other vegetation on the tarp and use it to pull or carry the debris away.

Brevard County Emergency Management



Blue-tarped roofs are a common sight after a storm. GETTY IMAGES